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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Title and Applicant Name

Fish Passage and Fish Screening Improvement Project. Phase II. submitted by the Anderson-Cottonwood Irrigation District (ACID)

Project Description and Primary Biological/Ecological Objectives

This project is Phase II of an ongoing CALFED-funded effort to correct fish passage and fish screening problems at ACID's main diversion dam. The project will directly benefit all anadromous Sacramento River fish species within a critically important spawning reach for federal and state-listed endangered winter-run chinook salmon and all other upper Sacramento River salmon runs currently proposed for listing. Screen improvements will correct existing downstream passage deficiencies (reduced entertainment, impingement, and predation of juveniles); ladder improvements will correct upstream passage deficiencies (reduced injury, stress, crowding, disorientation, and delays of adults) and enable appropriate fish passage management by agencies participating in the ACID Fish Passage Team. This proposal, conceived from ACID Fish Passage Team input, recognizes that a combined fish screen/fish ladder approach is the most economically and biologically beneficial fish passage solution. Funding will ensure successful design and environmental compliance completion, with construction documents for bidding in spring 1999. Screening facilities that meet current NMFS and CDFG screening criteria will benefit Category III fisheries objectives. Proposed project features and location are shown on Figures 1a and 1b in the Project Description.

Approach/Tasks/Schedule

The proposed Phase II approach includes completing final design, environmental documentation, and permitting. Continuing Phase I efforts, previously funded by CALFED, include preliminary fish ladder and screen design and environmental compliance work. Construction, construction management, mitigation and monitoring would occur under Phase III, scheduled for spring 1999. Delays in funding Phase II or Phase III will delay the project and associated fisheries benefits for 1 or more years or result in more costly construction staggered over multiple seasons. The sequencing of tasks is shown on Figure 2 in the Project Description section of this proposal. This proposal requests funding through Phase II only. As shown, construction completion is expected by 2000, assuming that funding for construction is received by ACID in early 1999.

Justification for Project and Funding by CALFED

CALFED has demonstrated that fish passage improvements are necessary at the ACID facility by funding the current preliminary design and environmental efforts. Additional justification includes:

- The progress made toward a long-term solution through joint efforts between ACID and the Fish Passage Team demonstrates the group's ability to work effectively toward completing construction by 2000.
- The project directly addresses key stressors identified by CALFED, including unscreened diversions and diversions not screened to current standards in an affected river reach that provides habitat for CALFED priority species.
- Screen and ladder design concepts are being developed in conjunction with the ACID Fish Passage Team to ensure appropriate and timely design.
- ACID lacks the financial resources to fund the project through District funding. CALFED funding will provide justification and incentive for matching funds through other programs, such as the Anadromous Fish Screen Program.

Budget Costs and Third Party Impacts

The requested funding is $860,000 for Phase II. This project will benefit all third parties interested in restoration of anadromous fish species in the Sacramento River/Central Valley and Bay-Delta systems. Impacts to third parties will be minimal because the majority of the work will be completed within existing ACID right-of-way and/or adjacent to existing facilities. The fish ladder and screen improvements will be implemented in accordance with all required permits and approvals.

Applicant Qualifications

ACID continues to work successfully with the Fish Passage Team in Phase I toward long-term fish passage solution to be constructed in 1999. ACID manager, Dee E. Swearingen, has overseen construction projects on Hooker Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and the South Fork of Cottonwood Creek, which required permitting and approvals from the Corps of Engineers (404), Regional Water Quality Control Board (401), and CDFG (1603). Mr. Swearingen, while managing Western Canal Water District, was instrumental in initiating fish passage improvements on Butte Creek. The Point Four Dam removal and Western Canal Water District's Butte Creek siphon project were formulated under his oversight. Other project team members, a list of successful representative projects, and a letter of recommendation for the applicant team are shown on Figures 3, 4, and 5, respectively, in the Project Description section of this proposal.

Monitoring and Data Evaluation

A draft monitoring program will be developed under Task 5 in coordination with CDFG and NMFS.

Local Support/Coordination with other Programs/Compatibility with CALFED Objectives

This project supports programs administered by the CDFG, USFWS, NMFS, Reclamation, and Natural Resources Conservation Service. CDFG will continue to provide guidance and review of the fish screen and ladder designs through an in-kind services agreement. The project directly addresses key stressors, including migration barriers or delays caused by physical structures, inadequate attraction flows, predation, and diversions not screened to current standards.